take into consideration all relevant factors including the recommendations of the Committees.

Reduction of Drug Price Control

2153. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has reached any consensus on reduction of drug price control to 24 per cent from 40 per cent at present as well as taking 55 drugs out of control from the present 74 drugs;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; price-wise, drug-wise;

(c) how much time Government would take to place before Parliament the new Pharmaceutical Policy;

(d) whether any funds has been allocated for promoting R and D in the pharma industry under the new Policy; and

(e) if so, which agency is likely to manage/operate such funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (e) A Committee, namely, the Drug Price Control Review Committee was set up to review the present price control mechanism with a view to reducing the rigours of price control, where they had become counter productive. Another Committee, the Pharmaceutical Research and Development Committee was set up to recommend measures to strengthen the research and development capability of the Pharmaceutical Industry in the country and identify the support required by Indian Pharmaceutical companies to undertake domestic R & D. Both the Committees have since submitted their reports suggesting measures in that direction. Changes in the Pharmaceutical Policy will take into consideration all relevant factors including the recommendations of the Committees. The Government's decision that the span of price control would be reduced substantially was a part of the Budget speech on the 28th Feb, 2001.